

NEWINGTON NOTES

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NEWINGTON NATIVES RETURN HOME

July 6th was a special day for Newington: two native sons returned home to continue working in their chosen careers. Bill DeMaio was appointed as the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, and Steve Clark was sworn-in as Newington's Police Chief.

Ironically both men had previously worked for the Town, left for a duration to pursue their careers in different communities, and then came back to the place where it all started—each man motivated by a need to give back to his hometown community.

As you can see from their yearbook photos, these men still manifest the same attributes they did in high school—one appearing to be a bit of a non-conformist with his long hair and infectious smile, the other with a more conservative demeanor exuding a quiet confidence. Today these two Newington citizens are back in town doing jobs they are perfectly suited for!

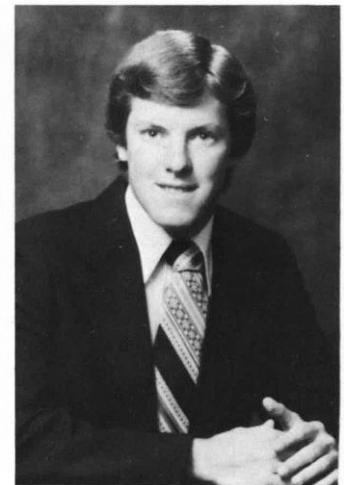
When the Town was searching for a new Police Chief, residents indicated

they wanted a police chief who lived in Town and was an integral part of the community. Chief Clark was the perfect candidate—he was a Newington resident, a graduate of the Newington school system whose football coaches had been Newington police officers, and he had been a former Newington police officer himself.

With twenty-nine years of police history, Chief Clark seems very comfortable sitting behind his new desk in police headquarters. First impressions might lead you to believe that he is a bit shy. A short conversation will confirm that he is a man of strength, integrity and commitment.

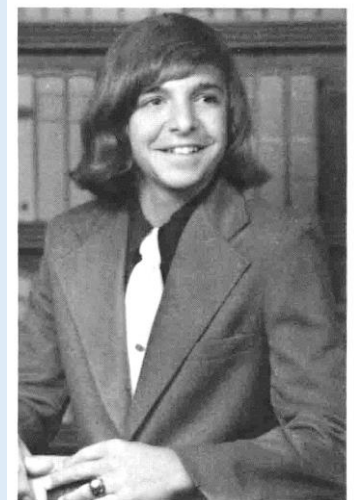
Since his swear-in ceremony Chief Clark has been inducted into the Newington Chapter of Rotarians. With a motto of, "Service Above Self," it seems very fitting for this highly acclaimed public servant to join an organization of leaders who encourage high ethical standards and help build goodwill throughout the world.

Then....



Stephen M. Clark

Steve ... Gaylord ... Stick ... Baseball ... #5 ... golfing with TM, RR, SM ... enjoys hunting and fishing ... someone special ... Sharon ... CFPT ... summer of '80 ... S & S.



William DeMaio

Bill ... Hawk-eye ... "You turkey." ... seen with Dave ... loves all sports ... successful in school ... enjoys the beach and girls ... Hawaii ... Blue truck — New Year's Eve ... Gallante's ... P. P. P. E.

Now...



After taking a career test in High School that revealed he had a calling in the leisure services industry, Bill DeMaio earned a degree from Springfield College and launched his career as a Parks and Recreation manager. He returns to Newington with an impressive 31-year history of accomplishments he achieved while working in New Britain.

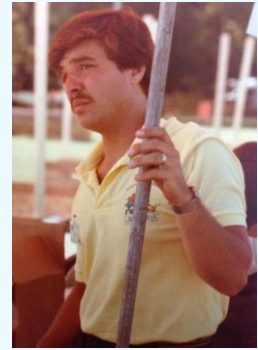
Bill's exuberant energy and enthusiasm are contagious. His engaging smile is welcoming and inviting. He is clearly a people-person who has found his calling in life.

Bill DeMaio has been an involved member of the Newington Commission on Aging and Disabled since 1989. In his new role as Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, he is hoping to work with businesses, schools and civic groups.

Citing the need for more transparency, both men have brought a fresh perspective to local government. Bill is aware of the need for community input. Within a few weeks of starting his new position, he held a public information forum to solicit residents' opinions regarding the redesign of Churchill Park. He is planning to unveil drawings and a conceptual plan of Churchill Park on October 23rd.

Chief Clark cited the need for community input in his public comments following his swearing-in. He has scheduled a Public Safety Form for [October 7th](#) to seek input from residents on a variety of issues.

Now...



Life. Be in it.

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE INFORMATION

As mandated by Connecticut State Statutes real estate assessments are updated to reflect market conditions every five years through a process of revaluation. A revaluation does not raise revenues; it redistributes the tax burden based on the current value of the property.

The Town recently hired eQuality Valuation Services, LLC of Waterbury to assist with the October 1, 2015 revaluation of all real estate.

A physical inspection of each property is not required. From February through May property owners received data mailers containing a summary of a property's information. Owners were asked to verify or correct this information. eQuality personnel and the Assessor then conducted a drive-by field-review to verify the information. New photographs or digital images may have been taken to update the database. Commercial property owners were asked to complete and return an income and expense form.

Notices of assessment increases will be mailed during November 2015. The impact of the revaluation will be on tax bills mailed during July 2016. The mill rate for 2016 will be established in April by Town Council as part of the budget process.

Please [click here](#) for more information about the revaluation process.

FUZZY FIGURES OR FACTUAL PROJECTIONS

If someone tells you that it's possible to fund a multi-million dollar Town Hall project (be it a building or any bonding project)—and it won't affect your taxes, more than likely, your reaction is going to be, "What?" And yet, this is what Newington officials are telling their taxpayers. Is this fuzzy finance or factual projection?

Understanding the Town's Capital Improvement Plan and debt service is paramount to understanding how a renovation/building project might be feasible.

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a planning and fiscal management tool used to coordinate the timing and financing of major improvements over a multi-year period.

A component of the CIP concept is a financing tool referred to as "pay-as-you-go" (PAYG). PAYG is a method of payment by which capital projects are financed from current revenue in the operating budget rather than through borrowing.

Debt service occurs when a Town borrows money. It is the repayment process that takes into consideration all expenses related to the loan including the interest payments, principal payments and the number of months that the loan is being financed. Debt service for a municipality is the same as a mortgage payment for a homeowner.



In 2006 the Town Council established a Capital Improvement Program Committee to provide a framework for planning and financing the Town's capital purchases over several years. In 2007 Town Council adopted a CIP Policy aimed at alleviating spikes in the budget for capital improvements—the intent was to come up with a consistent budgeted amount dedicated to CIP.

From its inception the Council has pledged an annual contribution to CIP of \$6.3 million as part of the budget process. This dedicated \$6.3 million is used to offset the Town's debt service and pay-as-you-go purchases.



Where does this dedicated \$6.3 million come from every year? All budgets are a delicate balance between revenues and expenses. And, for a municipality a large portion of the revenues are generated through property taxes. In Newington, 6% of every tax bill is devoted to funding the Capital Improvement Plan. In the current

fiscal budget, \$1.2 million is paying for debt service and \$5.1 million is paying for capital improvements.



If a project was approved at a future Referendum, this ratio would change. Using \$32.5 million as an example: nearly \$2.3 million would be dedicated to pay-as-you-go, and approximately \$4 million would be dedicated to paying the annual debt service.

Remember that regardless of the ratio of debt service to capital improvements, the same 6% of every tax bill will be devoted to subsidizing the Capital Improvement Plan. Every taxpayer is already contributing to CIP—and probably does not even realize it. This 6% contribution is currently in effect, and this same 6% contribution could fund a future bond issue.

To be fair, taxpayers must realize that they may have little control over how much of this 6% is devoted to debt service. Town officials must balance priorities with availability of funds. Many department heads vie annually for a piece of the pay-as-you-go portion of the CIP.

Public Works might need to convert the landfill to a Transfer Station, Parks and Recreation might want to make improvements to the pools and playfields, some of the municipal buildings might need replacement heating systems. Or, there may be an unforeseen catastrophic event requiring a reallocation of CIP funds. This type of event could drastically skew the payment ratio of debt service (loan payments) to capital improvements (PAYG purchases).

And the offsetting philosophy that some taxpayers might eschew: if the Town can afford to fund \$6.3 million into the Capital Improvement Plan—why not use the \$6.3 million to offset a tax increase. The downside of this strategy is that over time it might lead to worsening deterioration of our municipal facilities and infrastructure.

WOOD-N-TAP EXPANDS INTO NEWINGTON

Wood-n-Tap restaurant, a Connecticut original, opened its flagship restaurant in 2002 on Sisson Avenue in Hartford. The



four

partners behind the Wood-N-Tap franchise, collectively known as the Hartford Restaurant Group (HRG) have expanded steadily into new locations including Farmington, Southington, Rocky Hill, Vernon, Orange, Wallingford....and they are planning to open yet another upscale eatery right here in Newington.

HRG's goal was to create a pub-restaurant with a comfortable atmosphere—hence, their "Come as you are" slogan. Tappy hour offers craft cocktails. Their bar bites feature bison sliders. Tappy endings showcase Emma's cheesecake plus they donate \$1 of every cheesecake purchased to charity! The group has developed a number of fundraising initiatives based at various Wood-n-Tap locations. Altogether HRG has given to countless community organizations resulting in over \$300,000 donated to Connecticut nonprofits.

The newest Wood-n-Tap location will be in the Raymour & Flanigan building at 3375 Berlin Turnpike. At 8600 square feet and accommodating more than 218 patrons, Wood-n-Tap will be "renting" space from the furniture

store. Newington's zoning regulations have made it easy to re-purpose some of the furniture store's existing space—a worthy strategy for growing the Grand List and for creating more restaurant choices for our residents.



A projected opening date has not been set.



The National Anthem

Have you ever attended a public event when our National Anthem is playing... and not been sure what to do with your hands—hold them in front of you or behind your back? Do you stand at attention when the colors pass by, or do you place your right hand over your heart?



O say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we halled at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Veterans' Day is November 11th. In commemoration of this holiday, if you find yourself at a public ceremony, take a moment beforehand to open [this link](#) for a short explanation on proper etiquette during the National Anthem.

NEWINGTON UNVEILS ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION

Dave Langdon, Director of Facilities Management, re-charges his car at Newington's electric vehicle charging station located in Constitution Square municipal parking lot.

The charging station is free, it is available 24/7, 365 days a year. Typically it takes 1-4 hours to recharge a vehicle. During this time, car owners can shop or dine at local establishments in the Town Center.

In April the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to apply for a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) competitive grant. Newington was awarded \$10,000 to procure and install an electric vehicle charging station. The Town was able to complete the project without any charge to the Town. Moving forward, the estimated annual operating cost is expected to be \$2,000 or less.



Municipal Election

November 3, 2015 List of Candidates

OFFICE PARTY	Mayor Vote for One	Councilors Vote For Any Five					Board of Education Vote For Any Five					Board of Fire Commissioners Vote For One	Constable Vote for One
Democratic	Christopher Banach	Diana Casasanta Serra	Jim Marocchini	Carol Anest	Scott A. Soares	Dave Wemett	Joshua C. Shulman	Sharon Braverman	Kevin Borup	Emily Guion	Cindy Stamm		Fred H. Callahan III
Republican	Roy Zartarian	David J. Nagel	Beth Kinsey DelBuono	Gail Budrejko	Maureen Klett	Tim Manke	Paul J. Vessella	Jane Ancona-Siegel	Steven Silvia	Nancy Coccoaro Petronio	Robert C. Tofeldt Sr.	Jerry Langille	John Jay Bottalico
Petitioning Candidate												Kent Stoddard	

Do not forfeit your right to vote—if you will be out of Town on Election Day, request an [absentee ballot](#). Absentee ballots are available beginning Friday, October 2, 2015. To further assist Newington residents, the Town Clerk's office is open on Saturday, October 31st from 9:00 AM until 12 Noon to issue absentee ballots to registered voters who are unable to visit the office during regular business hours. [Click here](#) to locate your polling place.

September 11, 2001
We will never forget...



Click on the Photo for an Audio Tribute to
United Airlines Flight 93

"The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."

Mahatma Gandhi

Newington Waterfall Festival 2015

Former Newington Librarian, Marian Amodeo, recalls how plans for the first Waterfall Festival began in 2002 when Paul Fetherston, then the Town Manager, was



searching for a venue to bring cultural enrichment to Newington residents and simultaneously promote local businesses.

While visiting a mission in San Luis Obispo, California in 2000, Ms. Amodeo watched artists at

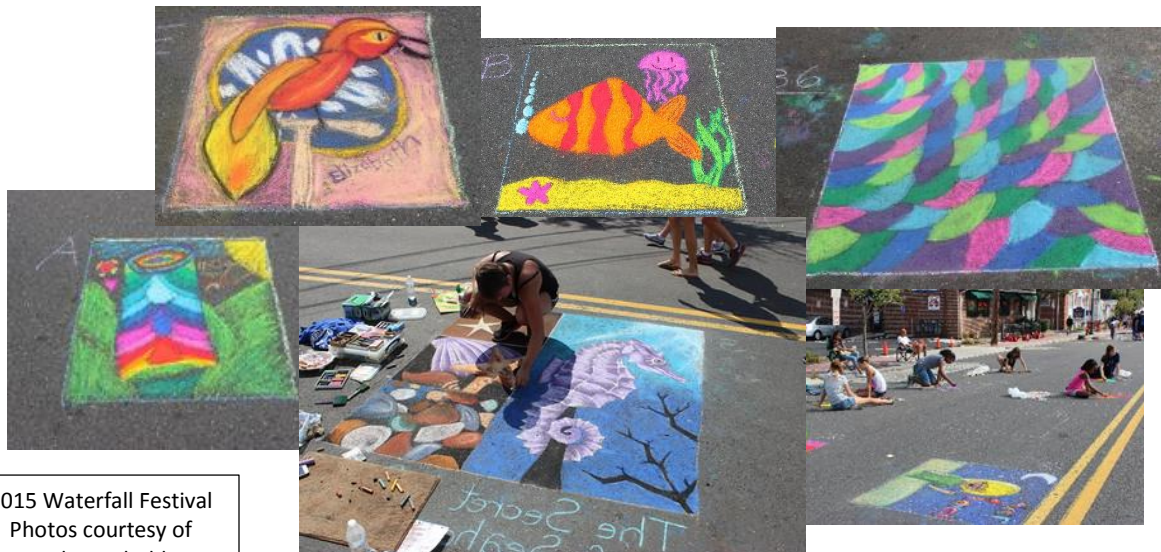
work on the sidewalk in the Italian street-art tradition called I Madonnari. When discussion began about planning a town-wide cultural event for the Newington community, she brought forward the idea of a Chalk Walk.

The first Waterfall Festival Chalk Walk featured both adult and teen artists competing for prizes. Today it's an annual event held during late September on the Market Square streetscape. It showcases food vendors, artists and crafters, live entertainment and a Farmers Market.

The main event is the "Artist's Chalk Walk" attracting contestants from age 8 through adults. The

Market Square pavement is magically transformed into an artistic wonderland and then judged by members of the Newington Art League. Winners are awarded ribbons as well as monetary prizes.

This year's festival chair is Theresa Reynolds. Each year the festival committee donates proceeds to a local organization. Past recipients have included the fire department and the Newington Volunteer Ambulance Corps. This year's beneficiary is the Town's Human Services Department.



2015 Waterfall Festival
Photos courtesy of
Bob Newbold